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BOROUGH OF
HALESOWEN



- ~~MR MUSTON~~ BH15
1. ~~Dr. Didsbury~~ C.407
2. ~~Mr. Morley Parry~~ A.419
3. ~~Mr. Perry~~ A.405

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

1967



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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN



REPORT

of the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

1967

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1967

Chairman

Alderman C. WILLETTS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor K. W. JOHNSON

The Mayor

Alderman N. GARNER

Members

Alderman Miss E. M. BRIDGE; Councillors G. BISP, A. N. BROWN, C.C., Mrs. D. E. COOK, S. W. ELLIS, F. PRICE, W. C. J. RAY, D.F.C., D. SKELDING, E. S. WILSON

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. TWOMEY, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Officer :

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

A. R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors :

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

J. RICHARDS (a.b.) (until 29.1.67)

R. J. SHAW (d.)

Mrs. J. C. CUTLER (d.)

I. B. W. CUTLER (d.)

J. N. OAKLEY (d.) (from 1.6.67)

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

C. RICKETTS

Technical Assistant :

P. WATSON

Chief Clerk :

N. BOOCOCK

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector :

Mrs. V. HALL

Clerk/Shorthand Typists:

Mrs. M. CHECKETTS

Mrs. A. WILLIAMSON

Part-Time Clerk :

Mrs. P. MARSH

(a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate.

(b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

(c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

(d) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board.

Council House,
Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1967

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Halesowen.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Dr. C. J. Bladon was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health on 1st March, 1967. She tendered her resignation on 6th April, 1967. The post was later re-advertised but no further appointment was made.

Vital Statistics

Once again there has been an increase in the population which was estimated at 50,390 at mid-year, 1,760 more than at the corresponding time of the previous year.

We have had another year free of maternal deaths in child-birth and every one connected with the maternity services is to be heartily congratulated on this.

The Infant Mortality Rate (the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live births) is recognized as an index of living standards and hygiene. The figure for Halesowen is 11.45 which compares very favourably with the national rate of 18.3.

The birth rate and death rate in the borough are both slightly lower than the corresponding national figures.

Infectious Diseases

There were 249 cases of measles notified during the year and of course vaccination against measles was not started in this area in 1967.

There were no other note-worthy outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Causes of Mortality in 1967

The general pattern is very similar to that of recent years. In the case of infant deaths, out of a total of 9 deaths in the first year

of life, 7 took place before the age of 4 weeks and 5 before the age of one week. These very early deaths are largely unavoidable in our present state of knowledge.

Deaths from disease of the heart and circulation take their usual heavy toll, totalling 477 or 56.6 per cent. of all deaths. These occur mainly in the older age-groups.

There were 77 deaths from malignant conditions, the most common of which was cancer of the lung and bronchus which accounted for 19 deaths. Though slightly lower than in 1966, deaths from lung cancer are a challenge to all concerned with health education as it is known that cigarette smoking predisposes to this disease as well as to coronary thrombosis and bronchitis. In his annual report for 1967, Sir George Godber, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health states that the abolition of cigarette smoking could reduce Britain's death rate by a tenth and the working time lost from sickness by much more. Sir George adds, "No other exercise in preventive medicine could do so much to help individuals and the nation. This is a task not only for the professional health worker but for every citizen who is genuinely interested in the health and well-being of his fellow men and women."

The Halesowen Home Safety Committee

This Committee, which is financed by the Borough Council, continued in every way possible to increase awareness of domestic hazards.

As part of a campaign to prevent accidental poisoning, 25,000 paper bags costing £25, were distributed to the pharmacists of the borough—each bag carried the following captions :—

“ Always Lock Pills and Medicines away from Children ”

“ Flush away or Burn All Unused Pills and Medicines ”

“ Never take Pills or Medicines prescribed for Others ”

“ Never take Medicines in the Dark ”

The publication of a home safety column in the “ Circular ” was continued throughout the year, the space being kindly afforded free of charge by the proprietor of the “ Circular,” Mr. H. Taylor.

Health Risks in connection with Animal Pets

A statement on this subject which I submitted in my January monthly report was published in the Medical Officer of 24th March, 1967, and a leaflet for national distribution drawing attention to the points made was prepared by the Central Council of Health Education later in the year. This leaflet is entitled "Is Dog Man's Best Friend?"

Abuse of Drugs and Medicines

The medical journals frequently carry reports of harm caused by the excessive use of drugs and medicines. There was an instance some time ago when five women developed severe blood diseases as a result of taking large quantities of aspirins over a period of years. In each case there was a good recovery when the aspirin-taking was stopped. In proper dosage and when there is a sensible reason for taking it aspirin is, of course, a very useful pain-killer. For adults it is good advice not to take more than six tablets of aspirin a day unless recommended by a doctor to do so and in the case of children the dose should be carefully judged according to age.

There is a tendency among some people to take a drug for every trivial symptom. They believe that there is a perfect remedy for all of life's problems in some medicine bottle or pillbox, whether we be skinny or overweight, lacking appetite or too fond of food, quiet or restless, too tired to work or too conscientious to relax, wishing to look more mature than our years or over forty and therefore in need of fortification. This naive faith in medicines is encouraged by advertisements. We are, for example, urged to take massive doses of vitamins to protect ourselves from infections though there is no scientific basis for such medication.

Taking things a step further, vitamin tablets are now advertised not for health (which strikes the young as a dull concept) but for beauty, and are sold together with cosmetics. There are very few girls in Britain whose diet is so poor that tablets of this kind can have any effect whatsoever, but if there is any such girl she would be well advised to spend her money on fruit and vegetables which are the best sources of vitamins, rather than on tablets

Medicines are of great benefit but they should be resorted to only when there is a definite indication, always used in the correct dosage and, because of the very real danger of accidental poisoning, stored in a safe place out of the reach of children.

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I have received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. CcCooke, Mr. Archer, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster, Dr. R. W. Markham, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Rural and Dr. C. H. Phillips, Medical Officer of Health, Bromsgrove, for having made themselves available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. TWOMEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1968.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	5,237 acres
Population census, 1961	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June, 1967)	50,390
Rateable Value (31st December, 1967)	£2,168,659
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.)	£8,840
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1967	17,077
Number of persons per dwelling	2.9

Deaths in Halesowen

	Male	Female	Total
	295	182	477
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...			9.46
Area comparability factor			1.11
Adjusted death rate			10.5
Death rate for England and Wales			11.2

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the comparability factor.

The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1967:

Live Births :

Number	784
Rate per 1,000 population	15.5
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births)	4.0

Stillbirths :

Number	13
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	16.31
Total Live and Still Births	797

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	9
Infant Mortality Rates :	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	11.46
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.01
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.93
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	6.37
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	22.58
Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	12.5
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96	14.93
Birth rate of England and Wales	17.2
Still birth rate for England and Wales	14.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	25.4
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	18.3

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births ...	415	395	20	369	354	15
Still Births ...	9	9	—	4	4	—
Deaths of Infants :						
Under 1 year of age	7	7	—	2	2	—
Under 4 weeks of age	5	5	—	2	2	—
Under 1 week of age	4	4	—	1	1	—

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	37
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	19
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	583
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (19 deaths)	377
Other cancer per million, England and Wales	1,110
Corresponding figure for Halesowen	1,131

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	4 Weeks Under & under 1 Year				15-	25-	Age In Years			55-	65-	75 and over
			Under 4 Weeks	1 Year	5-	15-			25-	35-	45-			
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	4	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	M	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	4	8
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	18	19
	F	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	12	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	M	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	16	31	17
	F	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	17	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4

20. Other heart disease	M	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	7	12
	F	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	16
21. Other circulatory disease	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	7
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
23. Pneumonia	M	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
24. Bronchitis	M	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12	12
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
31. Congenital malformations	M	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	16	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	7
	F	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
34. All other accidents	M	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	2
35. Suicide	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	295	5	2	2	1	3	2	7	20	54	99	100		
	F	182	2	-	2	-	-	3	3	9	27	59	77		

**COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOWEN**

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Food Poisoning	2	—	2	6	3	—	6	7	4	3	13	8	6
Measles	294	194	511	285	794	10	545	39	669	49	679	15	574
Scarlet Fever	36	29	24	19	50	25	13	37	57	59	18	32	34
Typhoid	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	50	11	1	23	30	—	6	66	29	7	33	153	47
Dysentery	3	—	3	2	15	50	—	2	12	5	7	29	15
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	12	7	5	10	7	7	11	14	21	18	16	21	28
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	2	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	4
Neonatal Mortality Rate	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8	14.4	16.6				
Infant Mortality Rate	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4	23.1	24.1	14.3	26.1	20.5	29.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate	22.5	18.1	31.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6	41.9	43.8				

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) Public Health Officers

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. W. E. Jones, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R. J. Henderson, M.D., Ch.B.

2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fifteen whole-time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio-controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton are the Corbett Hospital and Wordsley Hospital at Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital at Dudley, and the Bromsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham, and premature babies to the Unit at the Marston Green Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried by the special ambulance stationed at the Hayley Green Hospital.

3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. In conjunction with the W.V.S. there is a "Home Help" and "Meals on Wheels" service.

4. Tuberculosis

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

5. Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital

Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

6. **School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions**

These are provided by the County Council and the District has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

7. **Welfare Foods**

Distribution of welfare food is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, and three shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

Housing

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report. In 1967, 551 dwellings were erected, 324 by the local authority and 227 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1967, owned 4,687 dwellings.

SECTION D

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are maintained by the County Council. During the year, most babies were being immunised with triple antigen to confer immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The number of children treated at the clinics and by General Practitioners during 1967 was as follows:—

			<i>Primary Treatment Completed</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
Under five years	...	...	889	469
Five to 15 years	...	...	66	1,437
			955	7,906

Measles Notifications, 1967

WARDS											
			Belle Vale	Cakemore	Central	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapal	Total
January	...	...	18	3	14	1	4	2	2	4	48
February	...	...	1	31	5	1	2	-	5	16	61
March	...	...	-	1	2	-	3	1	3	10	20
April	...	...	-	3	4	-	3	-	11	12	33
May	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	1	19	4	30
June	...	...	1	1	1	-	2	-	9	2	16
July	...	...	1	1	1	-	4	-	-	-	7
August	...	...	1	1	2	-	1	8	-	-	13
September	...	...	-	-	6	-	5	1	-	1	13
October	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	...	...	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
December	...	...	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
			29	45	36	3	25	13	39	49	249

Tuberculosis

Thirteen new cases were reported during the year.

				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				12		1	
<i>Age Periods</i>				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
1-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
5-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
15-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
20-	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
25-	...	...	...	2	—	...	1
35-	...	...	...	1	2	...	—
45-	...	...	...	—	1	...	—
55-	...	...	...	2	—	...	—
65-	...	...	...	1	1	...	—
Age unknown	...	...	...	1	1	...	—
				—	—	—	—
				7	5	1	—
				—	—	—	—

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:—

				<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1966	...	...	...	63	47	...	6
1967	...	...	...	70	53	...	7

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

<i>Year</i>				<i>New Notifications</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
1950	...	...	...	37		14
1951	...	...	...	38		8
1952	...	...	...	35		9
1953	...	...	...	31		4
1954	...	...	...	47		2
1955	...	...	...	28		3
1956	...	...	...	21		1

1957	...	...	...	16	3
1958	...	...	...	18	2
1959	...	...	...	21	—
1960	...	...	...	14	3
1961	...	...	...	11	—
1962	...	...	...	7	3
1963	...	...	...	7	4
1964	...	...	...	10	1
1965	...	...	...	6	1
1966	...	...	...	7	—
1967	...	...	...	12	1

Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus

<i>Year</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1950	...	...	...	10	1
1951	...	...	...	13	1
1952	...	...	...	9	2
1953	...	...	...	8	2
1954	...	...	...	10	1
1955	...	...	...	18	1
1956	...	...	...	12	2
1957	...	...	...	9	1
1958	...	...	...	22	2
1959	...	...	...	15	2
1960	...	...	...	27	—
1961	...	...	...	14	1
1962	...	...	...	14	2
1963	...	...	...	19	2
1964	...	...	...	15	1
1965	...	...	...	25	1
1966	...	...	...	20	4
1967	...	...	...	17	2

Notifiable Disease, 1966

Disease	Age Un-										Age Un-
	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65- known
Scarlet Fever ...	36	1	2	3	1	3	22	3	-	1	-
Measles ...	249	9	30	37	32	31	101	3	2	-	4
Whooping Cough ...	50	8	1	7	13	3	16	-	1	1	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infections ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2
Typhoid ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Halesowen.

November, 1968.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

In 1967 the emphasis of the work of the Public Health Department was on the problems of substandard housing, air pollution, and unsatisfactory food handling. The conditions under which people work in offices and shops also received a considerable amount of attention.

So far as housing is concerned, the need is for a vigorous all-out simultaneous attack on three fronts—the removal of worn out houses, the repair of those which need it and the improvement of houses with a useful life but which lack amenities. This work ought not to be done in isolation and should be part of a scheme for the improvement of the whole environment, a scheme which takes into account the need to reduce noise and pollution from industrial premises, the need for more car parking facilities and for play spaces for children. If a local authority is to develop these ideas and get the best results it must make every effort to tell all those potentially involved—the householder, the landlord, the factory owner—what it proposes to do and why. This is the only way to allay suspicion, anxiety and fear and to encourage the man in the street to co-operate and to put forward his own suggestions for consideration.

Almost everyone has now become convinced of the need for clean air and is aware of the pollution which is caused by burning coal on the domestic fire. As a result, there is now continuous pressure on the department to accelerate progress, not least because the financial incentives offered to change or alter grates and appliances are now so attractive.

During the year I spent five weeks in the Federal Republic of Germany on a Council of Europe Fellowship studying air pollution and a week in the same country studying refuse disposal plant. I also paid a visit to Hamburg to examine modern petrol retailing.

Once again I am indebted to all the staff for their team spirit and enthusiasm, to Dr. J. Twomey, Medical Officer of Health, for his ready advice, to Mr. J. B. McCooke, Town Clerk, for his sympathetic interest in the department's activities, to all my fellow officers and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

A. ARCHER,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION

The activities of the department are concerned mainly with the demolition or repair of unfit houses, the improvement of houses, with the safety and purity of food, the cleanliness of the air, the conditions under which people work in offices and shops, with refuse collection and disposal, and with a variety of miscellaneous problems which affect the environment.

There is a continuing shortage of public health inspectors and work programmes are repeatedly disrupted by staff changes. To counter this difficulty there is a need to review the work they do and to see how far it is possible to utilise the services of the right type of technical assistant to do work which does not require the knowledge or skill of a fully trained inspector. Even in comparatively small authorities there is a need to plan and programme work and to concentrate effort where it is most needed.

For these reasons, and stimulated by a survey of the work of the Council departments by a firm of work study consultants, the department's functions have been re-examined and a new scheme of work introduced. Previously each inspector was in charge of a section of the Borough and responsible for all the work in his district including, for example, housing, food, air pollution, etc. This led, at times, to a serious imbalance particularly in connexion with slum clearance and domestic smoke control. The new scheme provides for two inspectors, Mr. I. B. Cutler and Mr. R. J. Shaw, to concentrate on housing, i.e., the survey and clearance of unfit property, the repair of property and the improvement of houses by grant. A third inspector, Mrs. Cutler, concentrates on food inspection, food sampling, food hygiene and the inspection of working conditions in shops and offices, whilst a fourth inspector, Mr. J. N. Oakley, deals with air pollution, both domestic and industrial, and with noise problems. Each inspector is normally in charge of a section of the Borough for a variety of miscellaneous matters of a minor nature. A technical assistant, Mr. P. Watson, helps any of the inspectors as necessary; he is largely dealing with domestic smoke control which often calls for repeated visits and the giving of advice.

The organisation of the work and the formulation of plans and programmes is done by the senior inspector, Mr. D. A. Spurrier, who is also able to take over whenever a vacancy occurs or to give specialist help when it is needed. He also plans, and is responsible for, the activities of the department's pupils for which there is an establishment of two. The Deputy Chief Inspector, Mr. A. R. Humphries, is concerned in dealing with broad policy issues but he devotes most of his time to running the public cleansing service to which is allied the work of repairing and maintaining the Council's fleet of vehicles.

DEMOLITION, REPAIR, AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The total number of houses in the Borough at the end of 1967 was 17,213 and this figure is steadily increasing as council and private development continues. There are 4,692 council houses, of which 1,766 were built before 1945.

A problem which gives rise to continuing concern is the giving of information to prospective sellers and buyers of houses in areas which include property likely to be the subject of action under the Housing Acts. There is often no sharp line of demarcation between a house with a life of say three years and one with a life of seven, eight or ten years. Moreover, the life of a house may be affected by a number of factors including the standard of repair and maintenance both of the house itself and possibly that of adjoining houses, the speed at which new houses to replace those unfit are built, and not least, by the effect of legislation concerning house improvement. All these factors lead to dissatisfaction when the owner of a house with a potentially limited life wishes to sell and finds that a possible buyer is put off by the inability of the department to give a categorical assurance that a house will have a life of a specific term of years.

Slum Clearance

The Council began dealing with unfit houses in the 1930's and by the outbreak of war in 1939 had made 405 demolition and closing orders.

Progress from 1945 to the end of 1967 was as follows:—

					<i>Dwellings</i>
Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	...	18
Closing orders	...	...	...	...	27
Demolition orders	...	...	...	...	332
Clearance orders (30)	...	...	...	...	297
Compulsory purchase orders (18)	...	...	...	...	355
Council owned property :					
—included in clearance areas	...	...	...	...	4
—certificates of unfitness	...	...	...	...	34
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>1,067</u>

Of this total of 1,067 dwellings, 977 have been dealt with since 1955. The main effort in slum clearance during the year has been concentrated in the Cradley area of the Borough.

Property dealt with during 1967
Part II of the Housing Act, 1957

	<i>Dwellings</i>
Houses reported as unfit	29
Demolition orders made	24
Closing orders made	3
Undertakings accepted	3
	59

Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

The following clearance areas were declared during the year:—

	<i>Dwellings</i>
Lyde Green No. 2 Clearance Area	6
Hill Street No. 1 Clearance Area	10
Hill Street, No. 2 Clearance Area	4
Hill Street No. 3 Clearance Area	2
Bridge Street Clearance Area	6
Butchers Lane No. 2 Clearance Area	7
Bloomfield Street Clearance Area	8
Overend Road Clearance Area	6
Lyde Green No. 3 Clearance Area	7
Windmill Hill Clearance Area	14
Beach Street Clearance Area	11
Two Gates Clearance Area	6
Furlong Lane Clearance Area	4
Total	91

The following orders were made and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government during the year :—

	<i>Dwellings</i>
Lyde Green No. 2 Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Bridge Street Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Overend Road Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Hill Street Compulsory Purchase Order, 1967	16
Butchers Lane Compulsory Purchase Order, 1967	7
Total	41

The following orders were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government during the year :—

	<i>Dwellings</i>
High Street (Cradley) Clearance Order, 1966	5
Lyde Green No. 2 Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Bridge Street Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Overend Road Clearance Order, 1967 ...	6
Cradley Compulsory Purchase Order, 1966	26
	—
Total	49
	—

Rehousing from slum clearance property during 1967

During the year the Council rehoused families from the following properties subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1957 :—

From property dealt with under Part II ...	11
From property dealt with under Part III ...	35
	—
Total	46
	—

Dwelling demolished during 1967

Hasbury, Central and Hayley Green Wards

- 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19 and 21, Slims Gate.
- 38, Cherry Tree Lane.
- 191, Stourbridge Road.

Belle Vale and Cradley Wards

- 20, 22, 24 and 26, Butchers Lane.
- 3, 5, 7, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, Foredraft Street.
- 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, off Foredraft Street.
- 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, Foxcote Lane.
- 152 and 154, Park Road.

Hill, Cakemore and Lapal Wards

- 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20, Coombs Road.
- 1 and 2, Olive Lane.

Re-development of slum clearance property

223 council dwelling have been built in the Hill Street, New Street area of Halesowen where 141 houses were demolished following slum clearance action.

Improvement of Houses

Improvement Areas

To prepare for larger improvement areas surveys were started in the Hill and Cakemore and Cradley areas during the year. These are giving a much clearer picture of the problems which will have to be dealt with as the areas are improved.

Compulsory improvement of houses outside Improvement Areas

There were no representations by tenants to have their houses improved in 1967. This is surprising and suggests the need for investigation into the lack of interest bearing in mind the number of houses which are without modern amenities.

During the year three houses were provided with all of the standard amenities as a result of applications made in 1966.

Improvement Grants

Standard Grants

	Applications			Grants paid	Amount paid	Number of Houses	
	Received	Approved	Refused			Tenanted	Owner/ occupied
1964							
66	59	7	38	£5,500	3	35	
1965							
39	37	—	32	£4,737	2	30	
1966							
38	35	—	23	£3,857	3	20	
1967							
44	42	—	23	£3,373	5	18	

Amenities provided :—

fixed bath	..	...	...	21
washhand basin		...	...	21
hot water supply		...	...	22
water closet	...	...	...	20
food store	...	...	...	23

Experience suggests that there is a need to amend the conditions which have to be complied with before a standard grant can be given. There are houses the life of which may only be eight to ten years but which would justify expenditure on the provision of bath, hot water supply and possibly internal water closet.

Discretionary Grants

	Applications		Grants	Amount	Number of Houses	
	Received	Approved	Refused	paid	paid	Tenanted Owner/ occupied
1964						
10	8	2	8	£1,835	1	7
1965						
5	4	1	6	£1,845	1	5
1966						
1	—	1	2	£503	1	1
1967						
1	1	—	3	£922	2	1

Repair and Maintenance of Dwellings

Complaints of disrepair have been dealt with in the following manner during the year :—

Informal notices requiring repair work to be carried out	...	...	...	...	29
Statutory notices (S.93 Public Health Act, 1936) requiring repair work to be carried out	...	...	...	...	16

There were four applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957; in each case the landlord gave an undertaking to carry out the necessary repair and maintenance work.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplied to the Borough is from three sources, boreholes at Churchill and at Hagley, and from the Hayley Green Works which is fed from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct. All the supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity and are not subject to plumbo solvency.

The fluoride content of the Churchill supply averaged 0.04 p.p.m., the Hagley supply 0.06 p.p.m. and the Hayley Green supply 0.91 p.p.m. This later supply is affected by the introduction of fluorides by the Birmingham Corporation Water Department. It is, however, mixed with the output of the Churchill and the Hagley Pumping Stations and on average is diluted in the ratio of one to eight. All the houses in the Borough are supplied direct from public mains.

During 1967 the following samples of water were taken :—

Churchill Pumping Station	...	52 raw	52 chlorinated
Hagley Pumping Station	...	94 raw	47 chlorinated
Hayley Green Works	...	47 raw	47 chlorinated

All the treated samples were satisfactory as were the results of the chemical analyses. The following results were obtained from samples taken at Waxland Road and at the Fire Station, Hagley Road :—

				<i>Waxland Road</i>	<i>Fire Station</i>
				<i>Parts per million</i>	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	...	...	...	108	106
Chlorides (Cl)	...	...	...	21.1	20.9
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	.005	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	7.1	7.2
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	...	...	...	0.16	0.12
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	102	100
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	81	78
Total Hardness	...	...	...	183	178
Iron (Fe)	...	...	...	0.01	0.02
Manganese (Mn)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

The following main extensions were carried out in Halesowen during 1967 :—

<i>Size of Mains</i>			3"	4"	6"
Cherry Tree Lane	...	...		75	
Long Lane	...	...	32		
Central Redevelopment	...	...		376	
New Street	...	...			265
Forge Lane	...	...			4
Beecher Road	...	...	70		
Grange Mill Estate	...	...	65	225	310
Woodbury Road	...	...			246
Cobham Road	...	...		62	
St. Margarets Well	...	...	92	520	334
Nimmings Road	...	...		24	
Waxland Road	...	...		322	171
Banners Street	...	..	40		
Summit Gardens	...	..	9	130	
Wolverley Road	...	...	63		
Manor Way Site	...	...		677	26
Woodberry Road	..	..		24	79
Tanhouse Lane Site	.	..		356	93
Total length in yards	...	...	371	2,791	1,528

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The main sewerage for the Borough and the treatment of sewage is the responsibility of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority set up with effect from 1st April, 1966. The Authority's district is comprised of the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge, and parts of the County Boroughs of Dudley and Warley as altered by the West Midlands Order. It can generally be described as the areas served by the former Upper Stour Valley and Stourbridge Main Drainage Boards, the former Brierley Hill U.D.C. and parts of the former Sedgley Urban District and Dudley County Borough within the Severn Catchment area. The Authority consists of twelve members drawn from the constituent Authorities as follows :—

Dudley County Borough Council	—6 members
Warley County Borough Council	—2 members
Halesowen Borough Council	—2 members
Stourbridge Borough Council	—2 members

Halesowen Borough Council's representatives during 1967 were Alderman P. W. Scott and Alderman A. Brodie. There have been no fundamental changes in the conveyance and treatment of sewage from the Borough of Halesowen during 1967.

There have been no changes during 1967 in the system of trunk sewers administered by the Drainage Authority within the Borough of Halesowen. A detailed scheme has, however, been submitted to the Ministry for a new trunk sewer, to link Manor Lane with the Authority's Rumbow and New Road sewers. This scheme will convey flows from Hunnington and Romsley into the Authority's system for the first time, as well as relieving the existing overloaded Halesowen sewers along its route. It is anticipated that this work will be completed during 1969. A scheme is also being prepared for the relief of existing sewers at Park Lane and Mogul Lane. It will also cater for anticipated housing and other development in that area.

The Authority has now set up a trade waste inspection and control organisation with laboratories at Dibdale House, Dudley. A number of trade waste surveys of industrial premises have already been made, and several consents have been issued within the Borough of Halesowen. These prescribe the standards and conditions upon which trade wastes may be discharged to the sewerage system.

Sewage Disposal

The Authority's new Freehold Treatment Works at Lye provides full treatment for a maximum flow of nine million gallons per day. The works was commissioned in August, 1967, and is

producing effluent of a very high standard. This has relieved the previous overloaded condition at the adjacent Caledonia Works, as well as providing some measure of relief at the Whittington Hall and Whittington House Sewage Farms. Sewage from the Borough of Halesowen is now mainly treated at the Freehold Works, although there is still some flow to Caledonia and the Whittington Sewage Farms.

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

As in previous years, routine inspections have been carried out at all premises handling food, including grocery and general stores, licensed premises and cafes.

In new premises, even where wall, floor, and ceiling surfaces are ideal, it is still necessary to give advice about food handling and cleaning of equipment, since, in some cases, the owner or manager and the employees seem only to have a vague knowledge of good practices and are often unconcerned about the need for daily cleaning of meat slicing and mincing equipment, working surfaces, etc. With some premises it was necessary to make weekly visits over a period of several months before the occupiers fully understood the standard of cleanliness expected. In most cases it is the lack of basic knowledge about food handling and food hygiene, rather than deliberate laziness which causes trouble.

It is often the case with newly built shop premises where the majority of foods are packed for self service that the service area itself is clean and tidy but the rear preparation and stock rooms are well below expected standards. This is often because insufficient space is allowed for these functions.

In ensuring high standards of food preparation, food handling and distribution, there can be no substitute for regular and frequent advisory visits by a keen, competent inspector.

Complaints

Every complaint of unfit or unsatisfactory food which is brought to the department is thoroughly investigated to determine where the fault lies and, in nearly every case, advice needs to be given on handling, storage or stock rotation.

The department is indebted to those consumers who take the trouble to bring to the notice of the department the sale of food which is unsatisfactory in one way or another. This co-operation is most helpful in preventing a recurrence and in pin-pointing unsatisfactory practices at some stage from manufacturer to sale.

During 1967 twenty-four complaints were made and investigated and legal proceedings instituted in respect of five of these.

The complaints were :—

blackcurrant syrup containing a dead wasp
 carton of cream containing rust/cream masses
 marmalade having ' peculiar ' flavour
 liver, said to be unfit when bought
 ginger cake affected by mould growth
 meat pasties affected by mould growth
 canned carrots containing specks of sand
 dried milk containing mite
 bread containing dough discoloured by grease
 pasteurised milk bottles with sand/cement desposits
 bread containing hemp fibres
 apple charlotte affected by mould growth
 chopped ham with area of discoloured meat
 loaves affected by mould growth
 scotch pancakes affected by mould growth
 date and walnut cake affected by mould growth
 bottle of milk containing safety pin
 bar of chocolate containing a screw

Proceedings were taken against the vendors of the pasties, the scotch pancakes and the date and walnut cake, and against the manufacturer of the bar of chocolate. The total amount of fines and costs was £81 5s. 0d.

Type of Food Premises

The number of food premises and their type is as follows :—

butcher	...	...	...	32	school canteen	...	...	27
cafe	...	...	...	12	works canteen	...	...	25
fish and chips	...	...	...	14	hospital and homes	...	...	3
greengrocer	...	...	...	34	confectionery (bread and			
grocer	...	...	...	101	sweets)	...	...	19
wholesaler	...	...	...	5	fishmonger (wet only)	...	...	1
bakehouse	...	...	...	1	licensed premises	...	...	83
tobacconist and newsagent				25				

Seventy-one licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, for the sale of milk from shops; as in previous years the milk is supplied by seven firms all of whom process and bottle the milk outside the Borough. Untreated milk is supplied by one farmer whose premises are in an adjoining authority.

The Food Hygiene (Market, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These regulations, introduced in February, 1967, have widened this field of inspection and given the local authority tighter control over mobile food shops, delivery vans and markets. Most of the mobile shop owners whether operating from premises either outside or inside the Borough have been very co-operative and have provided the necessary hot water, wash basins, first aid boxes, etc.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

217 samples of foods were submitted to the public analyst during the year for chemical analysis; the samples formed a cross section of foods available to the public with special attention being given to new products appearing on the market. Six foods were found to be adulterated and two wrongly labelled.

Food Samples

<i>Food</i>						<i>No. examined</i>
almonds (ground)	...	...	...	...	...	3
artificial sweeteners	...	...	...	...	...	1
beverages	...	...	...	...	...	2
butter	...	...	...	...	...	9
cooking fat	...	...	...	...	...	1
cheese and cheese products	...	...	...	...	...	10
chicken and chicken products	...	...	...	...	...	5
chocolate and chocolate confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	3
cream and cream products	...	...	...	...	...	7
coffee	...	...	...	...	...	3
colouring and flavourings	...	...	...	...	...	2
custard powder	...	...	...	...	...	1
dessert preparations	...	...	...	...	...	2
dessicated coconut	...	...	...	...	...	1
dripping	...	...	...	...	...	2
flour confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	4
fruit (canned and dried)	...	...	...	...	...	8
fruit juice	...	...	...	...	...	3
fish	...	...	...	...	...	3
honey	...	...	...	...	...	1
infant foods	...	...	...	...	...	3
ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	4
margarine	...	...	...	...	...	3
meat products (excluding sausage)	...	...	...	...	...	42
marzipan	...	...	...	...	...	1
milk and milk products	...	...	...	...	...	30
edible oil	...	...	...	...	...	3
potato products	...	...	...	...	...	2
preserves	...	...	...	...	...	5
pickles	...	...	...	...	...	3
rice	...	...	...	...	...	1
sauce	...	...	...	...	...	5
sausage	...	...	...	...	...	11
soft drinks	...	...	...	...	...	9
soup (canned and dried)	...	...	...	...	...	3
spices	...	...	...	...	...	1
shandy	...	...	...	...	...	1
table jelly	...	...	...	...	...	2
vegetables, canned, dried and frozen	...	...	...	...	...	7
vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	4
wine	...	...	...	...	...	3
yeast	...	...	...	...	...	1
yoghurt	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL						217

The unsatisfactory samples and action taken were as follows :

cherry preserve	slight mould on sample submitted; appeared to be an isolated case—no further action.
strawberry jam	slight mould on sample submitted; appeared to be an isolated case—no further action.
stewed steak with gravy	3% deficient in meat. Apology and explanation received from canners—no further action.
fruit juices	misleading labels amended.
shandy	low proof spirit. Proof spirit to be made higher now that proposals for regulations have been issued.
pork sausage	slight deficiency in lean meat which appeared to be an isolated occurrence. A second sample proved satisfactory.
pork sausage	6% deficient in meat. Two samples were below standard but a formal sample proved satisfactory. The matter was taken up with the manufacturer and vendor and strict control is now being kept on the meat content of this produce.

Milk Sampling

In addition to twenty-five samples of milk submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis, seventeen bottles were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples and the bottles were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Fourteen samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, five from ice-cream vans and nine from shops registered for the sale of ice cream. A table of results is given below :—

			Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
			I	II	III	IV
From shops	...	...	8	1	—	—
From vans	...	...	—	2	—	3

Grades I and II can be considered satisfactory, but Grades III and IV indicate careless practice in manufacture or handling or lack of care in cleaning the machines and equipment.

Two of the Grade IV samples were taken from vans operating in the Borough, but which were based, and the ice cream made, at premises in an adjoining authority. In this case copies of the results were sent to the Chief Public Health Inspector of that authority. The third sample, a pasteurised mix being fed into a soft ice cream machine, was taken from a van operating from a

house in the Borough. Advice was given to the owner on routine cleansing of his vans and machine and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

Food Condemned

Other than meat at slaughterhouses, the amount of food condemned was as follows :—

meat	...	...	...	245 cans and 24 cartons
fruit	...	...	...	485 cans
vegetables	...	...	...	129 cans
puddings	...	...	...	30 cans
soup	...	...	...	45 cans
fruit juice	...	...	...	7 cans
milk and cream	...	...	...	58 cans
baby food	...	...	...	1 cans
lemon mousse	...	...	...	48 packets
biscuits	...	...	...	29 cartons
corn flakes	...	...	...	37 cartons
turkeys	...	...	...	1
fish cakes	...	...	...	11 packets
fish	...	...	...	37 cans and 117 packets
steakburgers	...	...	...	6 packets
faggots	...	...	...	5 packets
shepherds pie	...	...	...	3 packets
beef	...	...	...	5 packets and 87 lbs.
lamb	...	...	...	24 lbs.
rabbit	...	...	...	16 lbs.
chicken	...	...	...	11 lbs.
pork	...	...	...	5 packets and 31 lbs.
sugar	...	...	...	280 lbs.
crisps	...	...	...	164 packets
jam	...	...	...	3 jars
margarine	...	...	...	10 lbs.
bacon	...	...	...	50 lbs.

A high percentage of the food condemned during the year was due to refrigerator failures because of electrical faults and this accounts to some extent for the amount of meat condemned as unfit.

Meat Inspection

There are four licensed slaughter houses in the Borough and killing took place at three of them during the year. Regular slaughtering was carried out at each place usually two or three times each week. Inspections of all carcasses and offals were carried out either whilst slaughtering was taking place or immediately after. As in previous years, the quality of animals killed was very high and very little diseased meat was found. No carcass was found to be affected by tuberculosis or cysticerci.

Details of animals slaughtered

				Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Pigs	Sheep	Calves
Animals slaughtered and inspected	....	....	....	296	-	507	1,591	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND C. BOVIS			...					
whole carcasses condemned	....	....	....	-	-	-	-	-
carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned				23	-	30	21	-
percentage of number inspected affected with disease								
other than tuberculosis or c. bovis	....	....	....	7.8	-	5.8	1.3	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:								
no condemnations	....	....	....	-	-	-	-	-
CYSTICERCOSIS:								
no condemnations	....	....	....	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat rejected as unfit was 3 cwt. 24 lbs.

Disease and conditions affecting parts or organs of animals inspected :—

<i>Disease or Condition</i>				<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Total</i>
abscesses	..	...	...	13	2	4	19
ascaris	...	...	...	—	6	—	6
actinobacillosis	..	...		1	—	—	1
cirrhosis	...	...	...	3	2	3	8
distomatosis	...	...	...	4	—	2	6
echinococcus cysts	...	...		1	—	—	1
fatty change	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
parasites (unidentified)			...	—	3	5	8
pericarditis	...	...	...	1	2	—	3
peritonitis	...	...	...	—	1	—	1
pleurisy	...	...	..	—	6	—	6
pneumonia	...	..	.	—	3	—	3
pentastome	...	...	..	1	—	—	1
				24	25	15	64

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 **Registered and General Inspections**

<i>Class of premises</i>		<i>Number of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of regis- tered premise at end of the year</i>	<i>Number of premises receiving a general inspection during year</i>
Offices	...	4	75	35
Retail shops	...	17	203	85
Wholesale shops and warehouses	...	2	8	4
Catering establishments	...	1	51	27
Fuel storage depots	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		24	337	151
		—	—	—

Number of Contraventions of the Act found

cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
temperature	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
sanitary conveniences			...	...	...	...	3
washing facilities	...		...	...	...	...	6
clothing accommodation			...	...	...	...	2
eating facilities	...		...	...	...	...	1
floors, passages and stairs	...		...	...	...	...	4
first aid	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
other matters		...	...	...	...	...	8
Total							39

As in the previous year the conditions in shops and offices were surprisingly good and even when employers were unaware of the existence of the Act, the premises usually complied with the relevant regulations. In no case was it necessary to resort to court action to get the necessary work carried out.

Reported Accidents on Registered Premises

<i>Workplace</i>	<i>Number reported and investigated</i>		<i>Action taken</i>	
			<i>Informal advice</i>	<i>No action</i>
offices	...	...	1	1
retail shops	...	...	—	—
wholesale warehouses	...	2	—	2
catering establishments	...	1	—	1
fuel storage	...	—	—	—
		4	1	3

Cause of Accidents

<i>Place</i>	<i>Cause</i>
office	handling goods
catering establishment	fall from steps
warehouse (1) and (2)	handling goods

All accidents were fully investigated to find out whether any of them could reasonably have been avoided. In only one case was it felt that the accident could have been foreseen had more thought been given to the job on hand. A cleaner was dragging a carton of magazines along a corridor, when she felt a sharp pain in her side. A month later her doctor confirmed the presence of a hernia. A senior member of the staff alleged that she was doing work which she had not been asked to do but it was agreed that on future occasions all heavy lifting or hauling would be carried out by porters using pallets.

AIR POLLUTION

Domestic

Smoke control orders covering 1,195 acres and including 1,111 dwellinghouses came into operation during 1967. Orders concerning a further 205 acres and incorporating 1,254 dwellinghouses were made by the Council and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

Many occupiers in smoke control areas are fitting either gas appliances or the modern solid fuel room heater whilst more people are now using the grant to offset the cost of full or partial central heating. So far as council property is concerned, the policy is to install solid fuel room heaters in rooms where water heating is required in addition to space heating, and gas fires in rooms used intermittently, with a proviso that in either case, a tenant can choose to have an open fire if he prefers.

In the last two smoke control areas there has been a large increase in the number of applications for 100 per cent. grant. Pensioners, widows and other people who need additional help seem more aware that they can apply for 100 per cent. grant, perhaps because smoke control policy is better known and because they receive advice from friends and relatives or from salesmen selling appliances. More old people are beginning to appreciate the advantages of modern appliances over the open coal burning fire.

An analysis of appliances installed in two smoke control areas (see list) demonstrates the trend away from solid fuel to gas. Although electric appliances appear to have lost ground, this is not necessarily so, as the Halesowen No. 18 smoke control order came into operation before direct acting electric appliances were designated.

<i>Percentage change to</i>	<i>gas</i>	<i>electricity</i>	<i>smokeless fuel</i>
No. 18 Smoke Control Order, operative date 1st October, 1963	2	9	89
No. 25 Smoke Control Order, operative date 1st October, 1967	63	3	34

Smoke Control Programme

	<i>Premises</i>	<i>Dwellings</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Covered by orders operative at 31st December, 1967		6,397	2,906
Orders becoming operative in 1968		1,254	205
Estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1968/9 ...		1,000	320
Final objective for whole of the Borough	18,338	17,838	5,237

The following table shows the progress achieved by December, 1967 :—

<i>Order</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Dwellings</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Lapal No. 1	Nov., 1961	489	82
Highfields No. 1	Oct., 1961	93	3
Howley Grange No. 1 ...	Jan., 1962	375	37
Central No. 1 Grange Cres.	Nov., 1962	57	5
Central No. 2			
Woodman Road ...	Nov., 1962	14	2
Long Innage, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	50	5
Dencil Close, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	54	4
Holcroft Road, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	24	3
Central No. 3 Town Centre	Dec., 1962	339	19
Bath Meadow, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	70	4
Furlong Lane, Cradley ...	Nov., 1962	30	2
Central No. 4 Cobham Rd.	Apr., 1963	31	2
Hawne No. 1	Apr., 1963	8	1
No. 14 Cradley Fields ...	July, 1963	22	3
No. 15 Hope Street ...	May, 1963	65	5
No. 16 Cocksheds Farm ...	May, 1963	20	2
No. 17 Spring Street ...	Sept., 1963	38	5
No. 18 Hayley Green ...	Nov., 1963	1,047	520
No. 19 Colley Gate ...	Nov., 1963	36	3
No. 20 Colley Gate ...	July, 1964	35	3
No. 21 Hasbury	June, 1964	51	301
No. 22	July, 1965	1,135	322
No. 23 (Lapal)	Nov., 1964	554	87
No. 24	July, 1966	578	81
No. 25	Oct., 1967	978	1,181
No. 26	July, 1966	71	6
No. 27	June, 1967	133	13
No. 28	Aug., 1968	1,191	192
No. 29	Oct., 1968	63	13
		7,651	2,906

Progress at 31st March, 1968

	<i>National</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>	<i>Halesowen</i>
Percentage acreage covered by confirmed smoke control areas ...	35.08	29.10	55.40
Percentage dwellings in- cluded in confirmed smoke control areas ...	44.80	30.36	42.8

As can be seen the position in Halesowen compares favourably with the remainder of the West Midlands and with the position nationally.

INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION

Ironfoundries

I was awarded a Council of Europe Fellowship tenable in the Federal Republic of Germany to study air pollution from the iron and steel industry with particular reference to the problem of ironfoundries.

I visited Düsseldorf, Cologne, Frankfurt, Erlangen, Hamburg, Lübeck and Bad Godesberg, and was able to discuss the various aspects of the problem with industrialists, scientists, equipment manufacturers and with officers of the V.D.I. (Association of German Engineers) and of the V.D.G. (Association of Ironfounders). Works visits were arranged for me, and I was able to inspect equipment for dealing with emissions from ironfoundries with particular reference to the problem of cupola emissions.

My general impression was that although legislation pertaining to cupola emissions is more detailed than that of the United Kingdom implementation of clean air legislation is much less uniform. The English system where the factory inspector is responsible for conditions inside the factory, the public health inspector for safeguarding the community in general with the alkali inspector responsible for processes which present special difficulties has much to commend it and on the whole works well. The ironfoundry problem which often gives rise to considerable local complaint either because of grit and dust emission from the operation of the cupola or from processes such as sand handling, fettling and grinding, or because of the smell of fumes from core baking will only be solved when many of the smaller foundries close. Only when units are large enough to justify expenditure on sophisticated gas cleaning equipment such as electrostatic precipitators, venturi scrubbers or bag filters, will conditions near to foundries really improve and only then when the answers to some of the problems are found.

There are in the Borough seventeen foundries, mostly small ones, operating twenty-nine cupolas; twenty cupolas are equipped with wet arresters and nine with dry arresters. One objector (the only one) to a proposed smoke control order based his objection in the main to the fact that an ironfoundry was included in the area and could not be operated smokelessly.

General Industrial Pollution

Many of the problems of industrial air pollution are the result of the intermixing of industrial and residential properties and however co-operative a factory management may be the method of minimising a nuisance is often a compromise and not in any way

a complete solution. This is particularly true where industrial premises are situated in an area zoned as a residential area and where new development, either by the local authority or a private developer, may take place up to the factory boundary. The converse of this situation, where houses are sited in what is primarily an industrial area is usually more easily solved as the property is often sub-standard and included in the slum clearance programme.

New Industrial Premises and Plant

Plans deposited with the Borough Surveyor are seen by the Public Health Department so that any obvious contravention of the law can be discussed with the developer and appropriate advice given. Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, makes it an offence to install a new furnace without notifying the local authority. In most cases, architects and heating engineers submit proposals although it is found that some furnaces are still installed without notification. The majority of installations notified were for oil fired boiler plant or heating furnaces and in each case the factory management agreed to meet the local authority's requirements regarding chimney height and construction.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Two stations using combined smoke filter-volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus measuring the sulphur dioxide and suspended matter in the air have continued to be used. They are No. 6 situated at the Public Health Department, Council House, Hales-owen, and No. 7 at the Public Library, Long Lane, Hill and Cake-more.

The average daily results are given below : —

AVERAGE DAILY SMOKE CONCENTRATION											
<i>Micrograms per cubic metre</i>											
<i>Station</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
6		147	64	34	55	34	24	19	22	25	101 101
7	...	149	74	40	53	37	21	N	22	11	112 89

AVERAGE DAILY SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION											
<i>Micrograms per cubic metre</i>											
<i>Station</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i> <i>Dec.</i>
6		137	105	58	105	62	43	45	49	37	102 103
7	...	156	122	74	133	76	88	56	55	37	112 88

N=No results obtained, failure of meter and pump.

The amount of sulphur dioxide varies according to the amount of coal used. Most of it comes from the domestic fire. This is shown on the following graphs.

STATION No 6 (Council house)

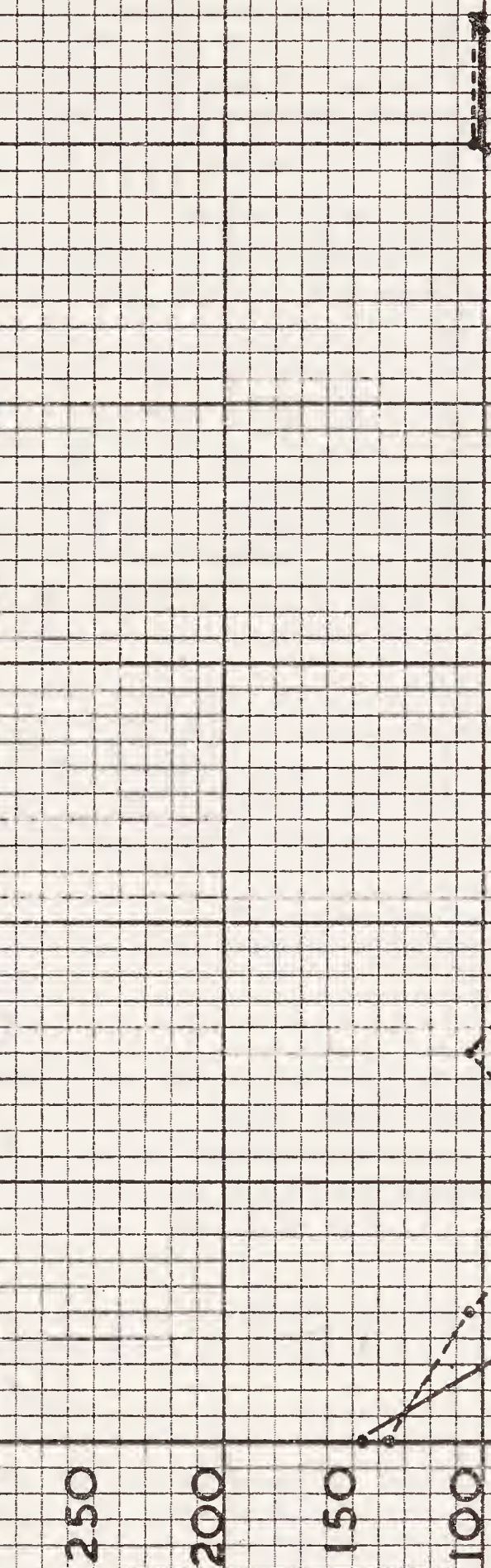
..... = Average Daily Sulphur Dioxide Conc.

———— = Average Daily Smoke Conc.

Micrograms / Cubic metre.

300
250
200
150
100
50

F M A M J Jy A S O N D



STATION No 7 (Long Lane Library)

--- Average Daily Sulphur Dioxide Conc.

- Average Daily Smoke Conc.

Micrograms / Cubic metre.

300
250
200
150
100
50

J F M A M J Jy A S O N D

N

N

N

N

NOISE

Sound measuring equipment was bought jointly by Stourbridge B.C., Bromsgrove U.D.C., Bromsgrove R.D.C., and Halesowen B.C. The apportionment of the cost of the equipment was based upon the industrial rateable value of each area. As four authorities are sharing the equipment it has been in almost continual use which would probably not have been the case had each authority purchased its own equipment.

The number of complaints concerning noise continues to rise and it is necessary to undertake an increasing number of measurements and observations during the evening and at night. The sound level meter has been of considerable help, not only in measuring noise but in reassuring residents and factory owners that the local authority are making an objective and scientific approach to the problem. On the other hand, the instrument has obvious limitations and should not entirely replace the subjective opinion of the officer concerned. The use of the sound level meter together with B.S.4142 : 1967, "methods of rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas," should provide a more uniform and effective approach to complaints.

Plans submitted to the Borough Surveyor are examined but in many cases, particularly with factory units, neither the occupier of the factory nor the type of trade may be known, and in some instances it is often difficult to ascertain the siting of individual pieces of machinery within the factory before a company takes up occupation.

Some typical problems encountered relating to industrial premises are given below :—

Drop forging factory :

Noise from hammers; the number of hammers operating in the workshop was reduced. Noise from burners of the oil fired forge furnaces; the research department of the British Drop Forging Association and the manufacturers were unable to reduce noise levels from this equipment.

Foundry :

Noise from fans to the gas cleaning equipment serving cold blast cupolas; silencers were provided to reduce noise levels.

Heat treatment workshops :

Complaints concerning noise from the handling and storage of materials during the nightshift; the company carried out structural alterations to the building and erected screens between the factory and adjoining residential property.

Drop forging factory :

Complaints were received concerning noise from two dust extraction units operating during the nightshift; silencers were installed on each unit.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of refuse and salvage is the responsibility of the Public Health Department. Street cleaning, gully emptying, snow removal and the management of public conveniences is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. The collection of household refuse is carried out by six teams of men, three of the teams consisting of five men and three of four men. All the vehicles in use are now rear loading and a gradual change is being made to compaction type vehicles. A total of 21,000 bins are emptied and, due mainly to the incentive bonus scheme, a weekly collection was maintained for most of the year. The bonus scheme provides for a lump sum payment on completion of a weekly task, the rounds being organised to provide a daily output of 150 bins per man. As an added incentive the men are allowed to finish work when the weekly task has been completed.

An increasing problem is the collection and disposal of trade waste particularly as respects the development of the new town centre. At present the bulk of trade waste is collected on the normal rounds but it is proposed to arrange for a separate collection in the future. At the same time it is hoped that it will be possible to re-organise the rounds with a view to greater efficiency and productivity. A further problem which it is hoped the re-organisation will alleviate is the traffic hazard. This latter is becoming increasingly important because of the great amount of commuter traffic passing through the area at certain peak periods during the day. In addition to the collection of household refuse a separate collection of waste paper is made from industrial and commercial premises. Trade waste is collected separately as a chargeable item and householders may have bulky items collected, not normally classed as household refuse, on payment of nominal charge of £1.

To comply with the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, provision was made on the refuse tip to allow householders to deposit garden refuse, bulky articles, etc. In addition, it is proposed to buy a bulk container loading vehicle so that large containers may be placed at strategic points in the area. This vehicle will also be used for the collection of trade waste, special collections from domestic premises and the collection of abandoned vehicles.

During the year negotiations were carried on to purchase or lease land adjoining the present tip. Although during the next few years it will be necessary to use this land for the tipping of crude refuse, discussions are at present taking place which may result in the provision of an incinerator to serve the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge, in which case the land will be used for the residue from the incinerator and for incidental refuse, i.e., trade waste, etc.

In October, together with representatives of Stourbridge Borough Council, a visit was made to the continent to gather facts in respect of various types of disposal plant. Incinerators at Hagen, Düsseldorf, Bad Godesberg and Paris, were inspected and some valuable information gained about the various types of plant and about the gas cleaning equipment and the height of chimney stacks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Cost Statement 1967-1968

Revenue Account		Collection		Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
GROSS EXPENDITURE		£		£	£	%
(a) Labour	...	...	25,870	1,952	27,822	49
(b) Transport	...	...	16,789	5,439	22,228	39
(c) Plant, etc.	...	...	5,701	944	6,645	12
(d) Other items	...	...	265	157	422	—
Total gross expenditure		...	48,625	8,492	57,117	100
GROSS INCOME	...	...	788	1,895	2,683	—
NET COST	...	...	47,837	6,597	54,434	—
Unit Costs		s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	
Gross cost per ton, labour only	...	...	45 0	3 5	48 5	
Gross cost per ton, transport only	...	...	29 3	9 6	38 9	
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	...	...	83 3	11 6	94 9	
Net cost per 1,000 population	...	...	£ 949	£ 131	£ 1,080	
Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	...	2,647	366	3,019	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week, 4.99d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each premises, per week, 13.93d.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,237
11.	Population at 30th June, 1967 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,390
12.	Total refuse collected (tons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,488
13.	Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
14.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.6
15.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,030
16.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98%
17.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point (miles)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.5
18.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
19.	Total refuse disposed of (tons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,500
20.	Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100%

VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The repair and maintenance of the Council's vehicles is carried out by the vehicle repair and maintenance section of the department. The staff consists of one motor engineer, two engineering craftsmen, one skilled garage attendant and one apprentice.

By the end of the year the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced :—

Public Health Department

9 refuse freighters
3 vans
1 Austin Gypsy
2 tractors
1 official car

Highways Department

2 road rollers
3 road sweepers
2 gulley emptiers
4 trucks
1 van
1 compressor
1 vibrator

Housing Repairs Department

5 vans
2 trucks

Parks Department

1 van
2 tractors

Vehicle Testing

The testing of vehicles in accordance with the Ministry of Transport's scheme was carried out by the Council. During the year 484 vehicles were examined, 101 of which failed the test. The main defects found in the vehicles were defective brakes (32), defective steering (89) and defective lighting (16).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS **(Factories Act, 1961)**

Number of cases in which defects were found					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Reference		Written Notices
			To H.M. Inspector	From H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences to home work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-
Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices		
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	7	-	-		
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	239	44	1		
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-		
Total	246	44	1		

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the above-mentioned Act.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent infestations are dealt with on complaint; treatment of private dwellings is carried out without charge, industrial owners of commercial premises being charged according to the amount of poison used and the labour involved. Each complaint calls for several visits and treatments, the number depending on the seriousness of the infestation. In addition to these treatments regular baiting is carried out at certain points in the Borough which are known sources of rodent infestations.

The total number of complaints dealt with during 1967 was 412.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

44 visits were made to factories in connection with matters under sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act.

DRAINAGE

Nine notices were served in 1967 requiring work to be done in connection with the drainage of properties.

Public Health Act, 1936, S.23 (Repair of drains) ...	8
Public Health Act, 1961, S.17 (Clearing of drains)...	1
Total ...	9

Clearing of obstructed drains in private dwellings is carried out as a free service to the public. Although this is an unpleasant job the majority of complaints received were successfully dealt with, leaving only a few to be cleared at the owner's expense. Many obstructions are unnecessarily caused by misuse of the drainage system.

Total number of obstructions cleared in 1967 : 242.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Drainage, public sewers	...	...	...	...	235
Drains	...	...	...	...	276
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisances (Section 93)					
Premises	...	...	...	...	657
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	5
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	98
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	40
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	nil
Verminous premises					
Council houses	...	...	...	...	53
Other houses	...	...	...	...	21
Watercourses, streams	...	...	...	...	8
Public Cleansing					
Tips	...	...	...	...	39
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	45
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	31
Trade refuse	...	...	...	...	10

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	58
Houses in multiple occupation	...	23
Individual unfit	...	119
Slum clearance	...	1,065
Improvement grants	...	808
Improvement areas	...	228

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Nuisances	...	130
Observations	...	83
Visits to plant	...	49

Atmospheric pollution measurement	...	...	...	...	588
Smoke control areas	...	...	...	...	3,458
HOUSING SURVEY	...	...	...	...	3,254
BUSINESS PREMISES SURVEY	...	...	...	...	—
MOVEABLE DWELLINGS	...	...	...	...	19
NOISE CONTROL	...	...	...	...	135
OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963					210
PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936	...				50
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949	...				405
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959					
With power	...	...	...	...	44
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955					
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	43
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Cafes, canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	66
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	5
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	28
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	19
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	81
Grocers	...	...	...	...	217
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	45
Markets	...	...	...	...	43
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	341
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	87
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	41
School canteens	...	...	...	...	4
Street vendors	...	...	...	...	48
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	1,511
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	377

